

Senate Resolution 261

By: Senators Murphy of the 27th, Mullis of the 53rd, Shafer of the 48th, Hamrick of the 30th, Butler of the 55th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Georgia Bureau of Investigation Director Vernon Keenan; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, born in Waycross, Georgia, Director Vernon Keenan graduated from Waycross
4 High School, earned a bachelor's degree from Valdosta State University and a master's
5 degree in public administration from the Law Enforcement Command College in Columbus,
6 and is a graduate of the 117th session of the FBI National Academy; and

7 WHEREAS, Director Keenan's law enforcement career began with the DeKalb County
8 Police Department in 1972, and in 1973 he joined the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI)
9 as a Special Agent assigned to Northwest Georgia; and

10 WHEREAS, before his appointment as Director of the GBI by Governor Sonny Perdue in
11 January 2003, Director Keenan served in many capacities with the GBI, including in the
12 Missing and Murdered Children Investigation unit of Atlanta, squad commander of the state
13 Auto Theft Squad, Special Agent in Charge of the Calhoun Regional Office, Inspector of the
14 seven North Georgia regional offices, the Metro Fugitive Squad, the Special Investigations
15 Unit/Financial Investigations Squad, and Deputy Director of the Investigative Division; and

16 WHEREAS, during the 1996 Olympic Games, Director Keenan was one of several officials
17 in charge of the State Law Enforcement Command Center and served with the State
18 Homeland Security Central Command responsible for public safety, facilitation of law
19 enforcement, and coordination of state personnel during the G-8 Summit at Sea Island,
20 Georgia, in 2004; and

21 WHEREAS, Director Keenan was instrumental in the formation of the Georgia Crisis
22 Intervention Team program, which has provided training to over 2,000 Georgia officers in
23 over 150 law enforcement agencies and for which he was recognized by the International
24 Association of Chiefs of Police; and

25 WHEREAS, during his illustrious career, Director Keenan has served on the Investigation
26 Operations Committee and the Dangerous Drugs and Narcotics Committee for the
27 International Association of Chiefs of Police, served on the Advisory Board for the Georgia
28 International Law Enforcement Exchange Program, and participated in law enforcement
29 leadership programs in Israel, China, Spain, Germany, and the United Kingdom; and

30 WHEREAS, for his many contributions to the GBI, the Georgia Association of Chiefs of
31 Police, and state law enforcement, Director Keenan was named the 2008 Outstanding Police
32 Chief of the Year; and

33 WHEREAS, he has been united in love and marriage since 1972 to Joan Thomas Keenan and
34 the couple has been blessed with two remarkable sons, Mack and Jackson; and

35 WHEREAS, Director Keenan is highly regarded by the citizens of his community and by
36 state and local government officials as a person of unquestioned integrity and dedication to
37 the administration of justice and sound principles of law enforcement.

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
39 recognize Georgia Bureau of Investigation Director Vernon Keenan, commend him for his
40 exemplary career, and wish him the best for the future.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
42 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Director Vernon Keenan.